

Application Serial No. 10/608694
Examiner: D. Jones
Art Unit: 3725

PATENT
HSM&L No. 14385.0001US01

REMARKS

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended and is supported, for instance, at Page 16, line 13 to Page 17, line 9 and in Figures 1-5. Claim 3 has been editorially amended so as to be consistent with revisions made to claim 1. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5 are pending.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0173829.

Claim 1 is directed to a cable support structure that recites, among other features, a first member and a second member which relatively move along a predetermined moving direction. Further, the cable support structure includes at least one of a first support member and the second support member supports one end portion or another end portion of a cable guide in a state capable of swinging the cable guide in a direction approximately perpendicular to the predetermined moving direction and approximately perpendicular to a bending direction of the link members.

That is, the cable guide can swing approximately perpendicularly to the predetermined moving of the first and second members and approximately perpendicularly to the bending direction of the link members. (Figure 5 and Figure 9.) The claimed invention provides advantages such that it is possible to prevent the unreasonable force from being applied to the cable guide due to the position change, and it is possible to correspond to the position change of, for example, a slide door with respect to the vertical position. (Page 17, lines 4-9.)

EP 0173829, however, does not teach or suggest the features required by claim 1. Particularly, the cited reference does not disclose that the cable guide is in a state capable of swinging perpendicular the moving direction of the first and second members, and swinging perpendicularly to the bending direction of the link members.

EP 0173829 provides a horizontally sliding gate in which an energy supply chain 7 is disposed in a guide channel enclosed by a guide rail 6. (Abstract) The energy supply chain 7 is fixed at one end at a current supply device 8 connected to an upright 2. The other end of the energy supply chain 7 is connected to the framework 3 and moves horizontally therewith. (Figure 1.) This other end includes an end structure indicated by reference 16. The Examiner asserts this structure 16 is a hinged structure such that it is

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capable of swinging in a vertical direction approximately perpendicular to the moving direction of the chain.

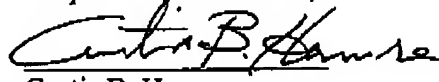
However, even if the structure 16 is a hinge that allows the energy supply chain 7 to move vertically with respect to the orientation of the gate, EP 0173829 does not disclose or suggest a member that allows the a cable guide to swing perpendicularly to a bending direction of its link members. In fact, EP 0173829 merely provides the end with structure 16 that may only bend in a similar direction as the links of the energy supply chain 7. EP 0173829 does not provide a cable guide that swings perpendicularly to a bending direction of its link members. Thus, EP 0173829 does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1, and accordingly does not anticipate the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable of the reference cited.

Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the pending claims are allowable. Early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney listed below.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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